

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A storage area network comprising:

a high speed network interconnect;

one or more target devices coupled to the high speed network interconnect,

5 wherein each target device has a unique hardware address;

a host, wherein the host comprises a host bus adapter (HBA) operable to perform a port login with a target device; and

a unique hardware address table stored in a memory, wherein the unique hardware address table stores the unique hardware address of every target device that the host

10 is authorized to access such that the HBA will not perform a port login with a target device unless the unique hardware address of that target device is present on the unique hardware address table.

2. The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a

15 port name.

3. The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

20 4. The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

5. The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the target device is a storage device.

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6. The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the HBA comprises the memory.

7. The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the high speed network interconnect is a high speed optical network interconnect.

8. The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the high speed network interconnect is a Fibre Channel fabric.

9. A method for managing the port login performed by a host bus adapter (HBA) for a host that is communicatively coupled to a fabric, wherein one or more target devices, each having a unique hardware address, are coupled to the fabric; comprising the steps of:

querying the fabric for available target devices;

5 determining whether the unique hardware address of an available target device is present on a unique hardware address table, wherein the unique hardware address table contains the unique hardware addresses of each target device that the host is authorized to access; and

10 performing a port login with each target device whose unique hardware address is present on the unique hardware address table.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

20. The method of claim 9, wherein the target device is a storage device.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the HBA comprises the memory.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the fabric is a Fibre Channel fabric.

16. A method for managing the port login performed by a host bus adapter (HBA) for a host that is communicatively coupled to a fabric, wherein one or more target devices, each having a unique hardware address, are coupled to the fabric; comprising the steps of:

querying the fabric for available target devices;

5 selecting target devices that may be accessed by the host; and

storing the unique hardware address of the selected target devices to a unique hardware address access table, wherein the HBA will not perform a port login with a target device unless the unique hardware address of the target device is present on the unique hardware address table.

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17. The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

15 19. The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the target device is a storage device.

20 21. The method of claim 16, wherein the HBA comprises the memory.

22. The method of claim 16, wherein the fabric is a Fibre Channel fabric.

23. A host bus adapter (HBA) operable to perform a port login comprising:

a memory;

a unique hardware address access table in memory, operable to contain one or more unique hardware addresses corresponding to one or more target devices with which the host bus adapter is authorized to perform a port login.

24. The HBA of claim 23, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

25. The HBA of claim 23, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

26. The HBA of claim 23, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

27. The HBA of claim 23, wherein the target device is a storage device.

28. The HBA of claim 23, wherein the HBA comprises the memory.

29. A computer system comprising:

a host bus adapter (HBA) operable to perform a port login comprising:

a memory;

a unique hardware address access table in memory, operable to contain

5 one or more unique hardware addresses corresponding to one or more target devices with
which the host bus adapter is authorized to perform a port login.

30. The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address is a
port name.

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31. The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address is a
node name.

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32. The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address is a
World-Wide Name.

33. The computer system of claim 29, wherein the target device is a storage
device.

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34. The computer system of claim 29, wherein the HBA comprises the memory.